communities and has stated categorically that firm action would be taken to protect the minorities and to punish the prepetrators of violence against them. That Government has also **set** up a special Committee headed by Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to enquire into these attacks.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of Regulatory Authority for coal

1059. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set-up a Regulatory Authority for coal mining in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the authority; and

(c) the present status of the proposal and whether Government propose to invite foreign companies to invest in India for coal mining and so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the recommendations of the Committee on Integrated Coal Policy (Chari Committee), the Central Government decided in Feb., 1997, among other things, to set up an Independent Body to perform the functions of monitoring and processing the proposals for exploration of coal and lignite in the country and allotment of new coal and lignite blocks to Indian Companies, in public and private sector, on the basis of competitive bidding. The proposal was conceived in the context of the amendment to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to allow non-captive coal mining by the private sector. Necessary action in the matter can be taken only after the Coal Mines. (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 is enacted by the Parliament.

The private Indian companies setting up or operating power projects as well as coal or lignite mines for captive consumption in such project are allowed foreign equity upto 100% provided that the coal or lignite produced by them is meant entirely for captive

consumption in power generation. The other private Indian companies engaged in exploration or mining of coal and lignite for captive consumption for production of iron and steel and production of cement can be allowed foreign equity upto 74%. 100% foreign investment in the equity of an Indian subsidiary of a foreign company or in the equity of an Indian company for setting up of coal processing plants in India is allowed, subject to the conditions that such an Indian subsidiary or the Indian company (a) shall not do coal mining and (b) not sell the washed coal or sized coal from their coal processing plants in the open market, and shall supply the washed coal or sized coal from their coal processing plants to the respective parties sending raw coal to such coal processing plants for washing or sizing.

Restructuring Coal India Ltd.

1060. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restructure Coal India Ltd; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) A proposal to restructure the Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiary companies from the existing holding company-subsidiary set-up to unitary set-up has been received in the Department of Coal nnd the matter is under examination.

Availability of Chromit: in the Country

1061. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the areas where Chromite is available in the country;